



Conservation Committee

Minutes

May 6, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Via teleconference

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Henry Tomasiewicz, Linda Frank, Donna Pollock, Pat Wilson, Bella Peaslee, Chuck Hagner, Elisabeth Witt, Maggie Pipek and Matt McGovern

Others Present: Assistant Village Manager Tyler Burkart, Trustee Wesley Warren

Not present: Kendra Carey, Caroline Kuebler, Meenal Atre,

2. Approve April 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wilson asked to amend the minutes to Victory Garden Blitz and not Mix. Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to approve the April 1, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pollock. Vote 10-0 to approve the minutes.

3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

Ms. Witt inquired if the Village accepts empty broth containers for recycling. Mr. Burkart will follow up with DPW staff.

4. Staff Liaison Updates

Mr. Burkart mentioned the Grow Solar Greater Milwaukee Program will be having a Solar Power Hour to be hosted by the Conservation Committee on May 21. He asked for a few members to be in attendance and all members to share the information on the Solar Power Hour with friends and neighbors. The dog waste station proposal was approved with an amendment to have compostable bags. There is difficulty finding a compostable bag that actually makes a significant environmental impact and worth equivalent to a plastic bag. The Village unfortunately was not selected as a grant recipient for the EIGP grant program. Mr. McGovern recommended following up and inquiring the reasons why the Village and so few Milwaukee County applicants didn't receive funding. Lastly newly elected President Ann McCullough McKaig is asking all current members who have served two terms to still submit their interest in staying on the committees as the JP&L Committee will review and consider extending them a third term. The JP&L Committee will review applications and possibly make a recommendation this month.

Mr. Liberatore invites anyone wanting to chair or co-chair to reach out to him.

5. Discuss strategy and planning for 2021 initiatives

Mr. Liberatore led a discussion about identifying ways the Committee is addressing the 2021 goals and initiatives. Ms. Frank is leading the charge on the climate action resolution. The Committee discussed how to have a meeting with the Plan Commission and Village staff about removing the Conditional Use Permit for solar installations. Mr. Burkart recommended the Committee to setup a meeting with staff and Attorney Nathan

Bayer to determine if we can remove the permit and setup a process to consider this change. Mr. Liberatore and Mr. McGovern want to be involved with that discussion. For the goal on converting the Village fleet to electric vehicles, Mr. Burkart recommends the Committee to make a formal recommendation now for Village to include these proposals in the 2022 budget. Mr. Burkart expressed the Fin and Feather Festival should be safe to plan since it is outdoors. He recommended setting up a meeting with the School District to see if the film screening could be done in the fall. Mr. Liberatore will follow up with Ms. Kuebler to see if she would like that conversation to be done now or later. Other projects include the sustainability scorecard, the downspout disconnection liaison work, yard survey analysis, yard and park clean-ups, updating the website on bird strikes, Green Development checklist, and the dashboard at Village Center and the School District electric board. The Committee would like feedback from the Village Manager on next steps for utilizing the Green Development checklist as well as the name for the document.

Ms. Witt expressed interest in helping with education efforts with the street tree inventory program. There was discussion about how the Committee could use the Village's social media pages for their educational and promotional efforts.

6. Consider additional reporting opportunities to Village Board and staff on previous vision plans

Mr. Liberatore welcomed some ideas of how the Conservation Committee could share progress on items in the vision plans to the public and Village Board. There was discussion about meeting electricity consumption goals in the Village buildings. Other ideas related towards organics waste diverted from the Village's refuse and waste, adding the number of charging stations for electric vehicles, and adding the vision goals to the scorecard.

7. Subcommittee Reports

No reports.

8. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

The 2021 Global Big Day will be occurring in Estabrook Park on May 8. There will be another garlic mustard weedout May 22 at 9:30 a.m. at the Shorewood Nature Preserve. Lastly, there are residents who have started an initiative called "No Mow May." They'd like the Committee to sponsor it for next year. Mr. McGovern and Ms. Pipek expressed interest in helping the initiative.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Pollock moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tomasiewicz. Vote 10-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager